

Message Text

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ACTION NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 ERDA-05 OES-06 /052 W

----- 082197

R 181332Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8852

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14717

DEPT PASS NASA FOR FLETCHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, UR

SUBJ: US-USSR SPACE AGREEMENT: POST-ASTP COOPERATION

DISCUSSIONS (04.0000)

REF: (A) MOSCOW 13150, (B) MOSCOW 12762

1. SCI COUNSELOR SEPTEMBER 17 WAS TOLD BY NOVIKOV, VICE CHAIRMAN OF INTERKOSMOS, THAT PETROV IS STILL QUITE ILL AND IN THE HOSPITAL WITH JAUNDICE. NOVIKOV SAID PETROV WAS DUE TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL WITHIN A WEEK, BUT SHOULD THERE BE A DELAY IN HIS RECOVERY, IT MIGHT AFFECT HIS PARTICIPATION IN OCTOBER DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON.

2. NOVIKOV SAID QUOTE THERE IS NO OFFICIAL DECISION AT THIS TIME CONCERNING A POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT FOR PETROV AT THE OCTOBER TALKS, BUT IF THERE SHOULD BE A REPLACEMENT IT WOULD BE AT THE VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMY LEVEL. SOME OF US, HOWEVER, FEEL THAT ACADEMICIAN KOTELNIKOV IS NOT AS WELL INFORMED AS PETROV ALTHOUGH HE WOULD BE THE LIKELY SUBSTITUTE. END QUOTE

3. COMMENT: PETROV WOULD PROBABLY BE A BETTER NEGOTIATOR SINCE HE IS MUCH MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE SPACE COOPERATION AND WILL ALSO BE THE ONE TO IMPLEMENT ANY OF THE AGREEMENTS REACHED IN WASHINGTON.

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4. ONE POSSIBLE CHANGE IN PETROV'S SCHEDULE WOULD BE TO DROP THE

CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE AND GO DIRECTLY TO WASHINGTON FOR THE OCTOBER 19 MEETING. PETROV'S MEDICAL CONDITION SHOULD BE CLARIFIED IN THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO.

5. THE SOVIETS ARE MOST CONCERNED THAT THE US NOT RECEIVE THE WRONG SIGNAL ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD PETROV BE UNABLE TO ATTEND. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ADVANCE US REACTION TO A POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE OCTOBER 19 MEETING SHOULD PETROV BE UNABLE TO ATTEND.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEALTH, SPACE AGREEMENTS, SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW14717
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760353-1205
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760945/aaaabmsd.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NASA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 13150, 76 MOSCOW 12762
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR SPACE AGREEMENT: POST-ASTP COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS (04.0000)
TAGS: TSPA, UR, US, (PETROV)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006